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# Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA PRIORITY

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FOR AMB PAUL C. WARNKE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, PFOR, SOPN

SUBJECT: MAY 17 PRESS ROUNDUP

1. WALL STREET JOURNAL, IN MAY 17 LEAD EDITORIAL TITLED "REFLECTIONS ON ARMS CONTROL," CHARGED THAT SOVIET ARMS BUILD-UP "HAS CLEARLY REACHED REGION OF PARITY WITH UNITED STATES, AND YET IT SHOWS LITTLE IF ANY SIGN OF SLACKENING. FROM WAY SOVIETS NEGOTIATE -- FOR EXAMPLE REFUSING EVEN TO SUPPLY THEIR FIGURES ON HOW MANY WEAPONS THEY HAVE -- WE HAVE EVERY REASON TO SUPPOSE THAT THEIR PURPOSE IN NEGOTIATIONS IS TO ENHANCE ADVANTAGES THEIR BUILD-UP IS WINNING." JOURNAL SAID THIS DOES NOT MEAN GOOD ARMS AGREEMENT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR SOVIET SYSTEM IS UNDER ECONOMIC PRESSURE. "IF GOOD AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED, IT WILL BE REACHED BY NEGOTIATORS WHO REMEMBER THAT PURPOSE OF ARMS CONTROL IS TO PROTECT NATIONAL SECURITY, AND AT PRESENT JUNCTURE WHOLE PURPOSE OF ANY AGREEMENT WOULD BE STOPPING ONGOING SOVIET BUILD-UP,' JOURNAL ASSERTED.

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2. KENNETH H. BACON, MILITARY SPECIALIST IN WALL STREET JOURNAL'S WASHINGTON BUREAU, IN EDITORIAL PAGE ARTICLE TITLED "SHOWDOWN OVER SALT,' SAID "IF DEADLOCK CONTINUES, DIPLOMATIC AND POLITICAL PRESSURES WILL GROW -- EITHER TO MAKE CONCESSIONS IN ORDER TO REACH NEW SALT PACT TO REPLACE 1972 AGREEMENT THAT EXPIRES OCTOBER 3, OR TO STEP UP WORK ON STRATEGIC WEAPONS TO SHOW SOVIETS THEY WILL FACE STRONG-

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ER U.S. FORCE UNLESS THEY AGREE TO NEW CONTROLS. NEITHER COURSE IS ATTRACTIVE."

3. MAY 23 TIME MAGAZINE FEATURE ARTICLE, "ARMING FOR 21ST CENTURY," SAID BECAUSE OBSERVERS EXPECT NO EARLY BREAK-THROUGH AT SALT U.S. IS ALMOST CERTAIN TO EXPAND ITS ARSENAL. "NO CRASH PROGRAMS WILL BE NECESSARY, SINCE NEW GENERATIONS OF ARMS ARE ALREADY IN PIPELINE -- DESIGNED, DEVELOPED AND TESTED," TIME SAID. MAGAZINE SAID DEFENSE SECRETARY BROWN "MUST WEIGH CAREFULLY WHETHER ANY OF NEW WEAPONS -- BY VERY FACT THAT THEY MIGHT SUBSTANTIALLY UN-BALANCE ARMS SCALE -- WILL CREATE UNNECESSARY OBSTACLES IN REACHING FUTURE SALT AGREEMENTS WITH MOSCOW." IN ACCOMPANYING COVER STORY ON BROWN, TIME SAID HE IS "STRONG SUPPORTER OF FURTHER AGREEMENT WITH SOVIET UNION ON LIMIT-ING NUCLEAR ARMS."

4. HAL PIPER OF BALTIMORE SUN'S MOSCOW BUREAU, REPORTED THAT EDITORIAL IN INFLUENTIAL SOVIET WEEKLY MAGAZINE NEW TIMES WARNED THAT CRUISE MISSILE IS NOT AMERICAN MONOPOLY AND UNLESS IT IS CONTROLLED, FOURTH MAJOR STRATEGIC WEAPONS SYSTEM WILL BE ADDED TO ARMS RACE. NEW TIMES EDITORIAL SAID "REASONABLE AGREEMENT IS POSSIBLE, BUT NOT AT EXPENSE OF (SOVIET) SECURITY.; PIPER SAID ELEVATION OF CRUISE MISSILES TO PARALLEL STATUS WITH ICBMS, SUBMARINE-LAUNCHED BALLISTIC MISSILES AND HEAVY BOMBERS "UNDERLINED IMPORTANCE MOSCOW ATTACHES TO CRUISE ISSUE. IT MAY ALSO SIGNIFY STEP TOWARD ACCEPTANCE OF AMERICAN VIEWPOINT THAT CRUISE MISSILE IS SEPARATELY NEGOTIABLE, BECAUSE, NOT
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BEING BALLISTIC MISSILE, IT IS NOT COVERED BY VLADIVOSTOK CEILINGS FOR STRATEGIC WEAPONS AGREED UPON IN 1974." PIPER SAID SOVIET EDITORIAL SPOKE OF POSSIBILITY OF COMPROMISE, SEIZING ON RECENT CARTER STATEMENT THAT HE SAW NO REASON TO OFFER NEW U.S. PROPOSALS. NEW TIMES SAID SOVIET SIDE, BY CONTRAST, "DOES NOT REFUSE TO COMPROMISE ON MUTUAL BASIS."

5. PAUL LEWIS, WRITING IN NEW YORK TIMES, SAID PRESIDENT CARTER EXPECTED TO FOCUS HIS DRIVE TO STOP SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS ON 12 TO 15 COUNTRIES DEEMED TO BE ON NUCLEAR THRESHOLD. LEWIS SAID THESE COUNTRIES ARE CON-

CONSIDERED CAPABLE OF BUILDING NUCLEAR WEAPONS, SOME HAVE NECESSARY MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGY, AND ALL HAVE POLITICAL REASONS FOR WANTING NUCLEAR WEAPONS. LEWIS SAID OFFICIALS AND EXPERTS DEBATING WHETHER BEST COURSE IS TO DENY THESE COUNTRIES ACCESS TO CRITICAL TECHNOLOGY OR TO MAKE THEM FEEL THEY DO NOT NEED SUCH WEAPONS FOR THEIR SAFETY. FORD

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FOUNDATION LISTED THESE THRESHOLD COUNTRIES: ISRAEL, SOUTH AFRICA, SOUTH KOREA, TAIWAN AND YUGOSLAVIA ("INSECURE STATES); BRAZIL, INDIA, IRAN AND SPAIN ("STATUS-SEEKING STATES"); AND ARGENTINA, EGYPT, PAKISTAN AND NORTH KOREA ("TRADITIONAL RIVALS; OF STATUS-SEEKING STATES). INTER-NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STRATEGIC STUDIES IN LONDON, IN 1974 STUDY, LISTED CHILE, INDONESIA AND JAPAN, BUT NOT NORTH KOREA OR YUGOSLAVIA.

6. HENRY KAMM OF NEW YORK TIMES, REPORTING FROM HIROSHIMA, SAID JAPANESE POLITICAL SPECTRUM, INCLDUING COMMUNISTS, SUPPORTS PRESIDENT CARTER'S NUCLEAR POLICIES. "ONLY CRITICISM," KAMM SAID, "IS THAT MR. CARTER HAS NOT GONE FAR ENOUGH AND STOPPED SHORT OF ANNOUNCING UNILATERAL AMERICAN RENUNCIATION OF ATOMIC WEAPONS."

7. ANOTHER TIMES CORRESPONDENT, BERNARD WEINRAUB, REPORT-
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ING FROM BRUSSELS, SAID NATO, WORRIED ABOUT BUILD-UP OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN EASTERN EUROPE, IS TRAINING ITS TROOPS TO SURVIVE GAS ATTACKS.

8. GEORGE C. WILSON, WRITING IN WASHINGTON POST, QUOTED PENTAGON SCIENTISTS AS SAYING U.S. WILL HAVE TO KEEP SPEND-ING ABOUT 150 MILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY FOR FOUR MORE YEARS JUST TO DETERMINE WHETHER IT WOULD BE WORTH BUILDING EXPERIMENTAL LASER WEAPON THAT WOULD USE CONCENTRATED BEAM OF LIGHT TO KILL SOLDIERS OR DESTROY WEAPONS. PENTAGON SCIENTISTS, SAID WILSON, STRESSED AT BRIEFING THAT NEITHER LIGHT BEAM NOR LIGHTNING BOLT WEAPON CLOSE AT HAND IN U.S. OR SOVIET UNION.

9. DREW MIDDLETON OF NEW YORK TIMES, IN DISPATCH FROM BRUSSELS, SAID SOME AMERICAN AND WEST EUROPEAN MILITARY LEADERS SAY THEY BELIEVE SOVIET UNION'S CIVIL DEFENSE PRO-GRAM, UNMATCHED IN U.S., WILL GIVE RUSSIANS ADVANTAGE IN NEXT ROUND OF ARMS TALKS.

10. HOWEVER, JOHN W. FINNEY OF TIMES SAID JOINT CONGRES-SIONAL COMMITTEE ON DEFENSE PRODUCTION CONCLUDED IN 113-PAGE REPORT THAT LARGE-SCALE CIVIL DEFENSE PROGRAM, SUCH AS SOVIET UNION'S, COULD BE READILY OVERWHELMED BY NUCLEAR WEAPONS. FINNEY SAID REPORT IS MOST COMPREHENSIVE STUDY YET MADE IN CONGRESS IN DEVELOPING DEBATE OVER WHETHER STRATEGIC BALANCE IS IN DANGER OF BEING UPSET BY SOVIET CIVIL DEFENSE PROGRAM. THREE REPUBLICANS PRESENTED DIS-SENTING VIEWS, SAYING MAJORITY TOOK "TOO NARROW, SHORT-SIGHTED AND, AT TIMES, INACCURATE VIEW OF STRATEGIC CONSEQUENCES" OF COMBINED EFFECT OF CONTINUING BUILD-UP IN

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SOVIET CIVIL DEFENSE AND OFFENSIVE POWER.

11. CIVIL DEFENSE ALSO SUBJECT OF REPORT IN MAY 17 NEWS-
WEEK, WHOSE MOSCOW CORRESPONDENT FRED COLEMAN "FOUND SIGNS
THAT MOST RUSSIANS TAKE CIVIL DEFENSE NO MORE SERIOUSLY
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THAN MOST AMERICANS." COLEMAN SAID "SOVIET GOVERNMENT MAY
BE SPENDING A LOT OF MONEY ON CIVIL DEFENSE, BUT RESULTS
ARE ALMOST INVISIBLE." CHRISTOPHER

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# Message Attributes

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